



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Popularity of Birding Reaches New Heights

With the New Year fast approaching, it's a good time to expand your interests and maybe develop a new hobby. If your curiosity has ever been piqued by the colors of a backyard bird or by the eerie calls emanating from your hedge, then birding, or bird-watching, is an activity you should pursue. The Fairfax County Park Authority has a number of birding programs scheduled in January for beginners and experienced birders alike.

Adults are invited to *Birding for Beginners* at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria on Saturday, January 5, 2008. This program, slated from 8 to 10:30 a.m. starts with a discussion about field guides and optics and ends with a walk to look for resident birds. Over 200 species of birds have been seen at Huntley Meadows, making it one of the most significant birding spots in the Mid-Atlantic region. The cost is \$2 per person and reservations are required. To reserve a spot, call 703-768-2525.

Families can discover the joys of bird-watching together at Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale on Sunday, January 13th, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Learn birding techniques, binocular basics and how to attract birds to your backyard in this beginners program. Walk the trails to search for birds and then return to the center for s'mores and hot cocoa. Bring binoculars if you have them. The cost is \$2 per child and \$1 per adult. Prepaid reservations are required. To register, call 703-941-1065.

Winter birding can be "hot" along the seashore. On Friday, January 25th, visit the Maryland and Delaware coastline on a daytrip from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and search for winter waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. The day could end with streams of snow geese descending on the marsh. Dress for cold and windy conditions, bring binoculars or spotting scopes, and pack a bag lunch. Reservations are required by January 17th. The cost is \$34 per person. This program is for adults only. Call 703-759-9018 (Riverbend Park) for information.

Whether you're a novice birder or a seasoned pro, the Fairfax County Park Authority has birding opportunities for all skill levels to enjoy. Check the calendar for more birding events at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8701.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.